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WORLD CATTLE NUMBERS IN 1952 AND 1953

World cattle numbers at the beginning of 1953 are estimated at a new record level of 845 million head by the Foreign Agricultural Service of the United States Department of Agriculture. This is an increase of 2 percent over numbers at the beginning of 1952 and 14 percent above the 1936-40 average of 743 million head. World cattle numbers have increased every year since the end of World War II and barring a major natural disaster in some of the more important areas numbers are likely to increase again in 1953.

Strong demand for beef and veal, and the relatively more favorable returns from beef cattle in recent years encouraged cattle growers in most areas to continue their expansion into 1952. Free market prices had held firm in the United States and Canada until early 1952 and those countries producing beef and veal for export under contract were either assured or anticipating an increase in price, when breeding and feeding plans were made for the year.

CATTLE: Estimated world total, by continent or area, averages 1936-40 and 1946-50, annual 1951 and 1952.

Continent or area	Average		1952 <u>1/</u>	1953 <u>1/</u>	Increase (+) or decrease (-)	
	1936-40	1946-50			1953	1953
					1936-40	1952
	Thousands	Thousands	Thousands	Thousands	Percent	Percent
North America	96,700	112,600	122,100	128,700	+33	+5
Europe	103,200	93,500	101,600	102,100	-1	+0.5
U.S.S.R.	59,800	50,800	58,800	-	-	-
Asia	295,700	282,100	298,700	302,400	+2	+1
South America	105,500	126,500	135,000	138,800	+32	+3
Africa	64,400	84,900	92,700	94,600	+47	+2
Oceania	18,100	19,100	20,500	20,100	+11	-2
Total	743,400	769,500	829,400	845,200	+14	+2

1/ Preliminary.

A summary of this information was published in the April 13, 1953 issue of Foreign Crops and Markets.

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CATTLE: Number in specified countries, averages 1936-40 and 1946-50, annual 1948-1953

Continent and country	Month of 1/ estimate	Average		1948	1949	1950	1951	1952 2/	1953 2/
		Thousands	Thousands						
NORTH AMERICA									
Canada.....	Dec. 1 1/	8,246	8,883	8,944	8,251	8,243	8,290	7,936	8,906
Costa Rica.....	3/	366	556	506	-	606	685	-	-
El Salvador.....	July	680	700	765	-	-	825	-	-
Guatemala.....	July	520	900	901	-	903	-	-	-
Honduras.....	July	524	1,000	945	1,000	950	-	1,100	-
Mexico.....	Dec. 31 1/ 3/ 4/	11,716	13,530	13,514	15,000	14,500	14,700	14,700	14,500
Nicaragua.....	3/	800	1,235	1,200	-	1,275	1,275	1,250	-
Panama.....	3/	434	567	567	-	-	577	-	600
United States.....	Jan. 1	66,706	78,951	77,171	76,830	77,963	82,025	87,844	93,696
Cuba.....	Dec. 31 1/	5,024	4,500	4,400	4,500	4,550	4,600	4,500	-
Dominican Republic.....	3/	885	837	-	-	887	857	850	-
Estimated total.....		96,700	112,600	110,700	111,500	112,200	116,700	122,100	128,700
EUROPE									
Austria.....	Dec. 1 1/ 3/	2,600	2,173	2,158	2,109	2,203	2,460	2,400	2,450
Belgium.....	Jan. 1 1/	1,724	1,674	1,588	1,688	1,902	2,020	2,127	2,155
Denmark.....	Dec. 31 1/	3,108	2,881	2,668	2,751	2,886	2,974	2,932	2,953
Finland.....	Mar. 1 7/	1,850	1,598	1,452	1,542	1,611	-	-	-
France.....	Fall 1/	15,504	15,067	15,125	15,434	15,404	15,803	16,240	16,194
Germany, Western.....	Dec. 1 1/ 3/	12,114	10,831	10,291	10,569	10,883	11,148	11,375	11,641
Greece 8/.....	Dec. 31 1/ 5/	1,278	742	752	732	732	802	915	956
Ireland.....	June	4,021	4,093	3,921	4,127	4,322	4,376	4,309	-
Italy.....	Jan. 1	8,550	7,400	7,263	7,834	8,162	8,331	-	8,400
Luxembourg.....	Dec. 1 1/ 3/	108	114	114	111	115	118	120	120
Netherlands.....	May	2,693	2,471	2,313	2,540	2,723	2,863	2,858	-
Norway.....	June 20	1,390	1,226	1,175	1,224	1,237	1,231	1,152	1,170
Portugal.....	Dec. 31 1/ 9/	905	975	1,000	-	-	930	-	930
Spain.....	Dec. 31 1/ 5/	3,739	3,950	4,000	-	-	-	4,200	-
Sweden.....	Summer	2,959	2,705	2,625	2,584	2,648	2,633	2,532	-
Switzerland.....	April	1,663	1,471	1,424	1,478	1,530	1,607	1,682	-
United Kingdom.....	June	8,798	9,973	9,806	10,244	10,620	10,473	10,244	-
Yugoslavia 8/.....	Jan. 1 1/	4,181	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total above.....		77,200	73,300	71,700	74,200	76,300	77,800	78,400	79,000
Other Europe.....		26,000	20,200	19,300	20,400	21,800	22,600	23,200	23,100
Estimated total.....		103,200	93,500	91,000	94,600	98,100	100,400	101,600	102,100
U.S.S.R. (Europe and Asia)									
Jan. 1 5/		59,800	50,800	50,000	54,000	56,000	57,200	58,800	-
ASIA									
Iran.....	March 3/	2,797	2,700	2,500	2,510	3,500	3,600	-	-
Turkey 8/.....	Dec. 31 1/	8,611	10,826	10,748	11,116	11,001	11,051	-	-
Burma 8/.....	Dec. 31 1/	6,165	5,030	5,209	-	-	-	5,350	5,540
Ceylon 8/.....	Dec. 31 1/	1,625	1,732	1,740	1,792	1,905	1,628	1,680	-
China 10/.....	May	25,000	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
India 8/.....	Jan. 1 5/	180,000	178,200	-	-	181,500	-	193,200	-
Indonesia 8/.....	Dec. 31 1/	7,669	6,330	-	-	6,370	6,500	6,830	7,574
Japan.....	Feb. 1 1/	1,798	2,167	2,103	2,294	2,450	2,460	2,670	-
Korea, South.....	Dec. 31 1/ 3/	922	646	643	684	699	393	572	-

ASIA (Continued)													
Philippine Islands 8/.....	Jan. 1	4,340	2,340	2,329	2,477	2,601	3,058	3,249	3,460				
Taiwan (Formosa) 8/.....	Dec. 31 1/	354	307	298	310	357	381	394	-				
Thailand 8/.....	Mar. 31	11,303	7,775	-	8,000	7,000	-	6,330	6,490				
Pakistan 8/.....	Jan. 1	33,000	30,000	30,000	-	-	-	29,049	-				
Estimated total 11/.....		295,700	282,100	280,600	283,100	285,800	288,500	298,700	302,400				
SOUTH AMERICA													
Argentina.....	July	33,762	41,150	43,000	42,000	39,000	38,000	39,000	41,000				
Bolivia.....		1,842	1,493	-	-	1,493	-	1,650	-				
Brazil.....		40,807	46,200	46,000	46,250	-	52,655	-	55,000				
Chile.....	June	2,489	2,345	2,324	2,344	2,331	2,186	-	-				
Colombia.....	Dec. 31 1/	8,010	14,148	13,893	14,538	15,513	15,512	-	-				
Paraguay.....	Dec. 31 1/	3,259	3,890	-	4,087	3,865	3,763	3,857	-				
Peru.....		-	2,790	2,662	2,883	2,824	3,100	-	-				
Uruguay.....	May	8,297	7,875	-	-	-	8,154	8,000	8,000				
Estimated total.....		105,500	126,500	127,900	128,900	128,400	132,100	135,000	138,800				
AFRICA													
Algeria 12/.....	April	841	759	698	747	765	810	-	-				
Anglo-Egyptian Sudan.....		2,700	3,350	-	-	-	-	-	-				
Kenya.....		5,239	5,150	5,589	5,612	5,550	5,650	-	-				
Tanganyika.....	Dec. 31 1/	5,000	6,324	6,370	6,425	-	6,113	-	-				
Uganda.....	Mar. 31	2,466	2,464	2,485	-	2,525	2,714	-	-				
Basutoland.....	February	437	430	-	431	-	401	-	-				
Egypt 8/.....	June	2,021	3,036	-	3,185	3,366	3,408	-	-				
Ethiopia.....		-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-				
French Morocco 12/.....	Dec. 31 1/	1,970	1,652	1,326	1,549	1,762	1,942	2,027	2,000				
Madagascar 12/.....	Dec. 31 1/	5,172	5,700	5,737	5,603	5,412	5,641	5,892	1,975				
Mozambique.....	Dec. 31 1/	548	632	631	659	700	738	773	-				
Angola.....		2,306	-	-	-	-	-	-	-				
Southern Rhodesia.....	Dec. 31 1/	2,340	2,878	2,748	2,822	3,004	2,981	2,964	-				
Spanish Morocco.....		259	255	250	279	291	-	-	-				
Tunisia 12/.....	Dec. 31 1/	494	394	368	340	359	395	-	-				
Union of South Africa.....	August	11,636	12,285	12,470	12,242	11,513	-	-	-				
Estimated total.....		64,400	84,900	85,700	86,900	87,400	90,300	92,700	94,600				
OCEANIA													
Australia.....	Mar. 31	13,285	13,971	13,785	14,124	14,640	15,228	14,893	14,400				
New Zealand.....	Jan. 31	4,449	4,738	4,716	4,723	4,949	5,060	5,158	5,250				
Estimated total.....		18,100	19,100	18,900	19,200	20,000	20,700	20,500	20,100				
Estimated world total.....		743,400	769,500	764,800	778,200	787,900	805,900	829,400	845,200				

1/ End of year estimates (October to December) included under following year for comparisons and totals. Thus for Canada the December 1947 estimate of 8,944,000 is shown under 1948. 2/ Preliminary. 3/ Average for 2 to 4 years only. 4/ June. 5/ Census or estimate for single year. 6/ Official statistics; may be underestimates of actual numbers. 7/ September. 8/ Data include buffalo. 9/ Census, December 31, 1934. 10/ Includes China Proper (22 provinces), Manchuria, Jehol, and Sinkiang (Turkestan). 11/ Includes estimates for Outer Mongolia. 12/ Data include only number taxed.

Foreign Agricultural Service. Prepared or estimated on the basis of official statistics of foreign governments, reports of the United States Foreign Service officers, and other information. Data for countries having changed boundaries relate to present territory, unless otherwise noted. Totals includes estimates for countries for which official statistics are unavailable.

Although economic and weather conditions and the feed situation differ in various countries, totals by continents show an increase for 1953 over 1952 in all but Oceania, and the decrease in that area was minor. Expansion was limited in some countries by competition with sheep, in others by demands for more arable lands for grain crops and in Western Europe by disease (foot-and-mouth) losses.

The most pronounced build-up in cattle numbers in the postwar period has occurred in Africa, 47 percent over prewar, North America 33 percent, South America 32 percent and Oceania 11 percent. Eastern Europe and U.S.S.R. are still below prewar, Western Europe reached prewar totals in 1951 and is estimated about 2 percent above prewar in 1953. Numbers in Asia are placed 2 percent above the 1936-40 average.

For 1953, further expansion in cattle is anticipated in North America. United States numbers are now at a record high but the upswing is expected to continue into 1953 in spite of lower prices. Canadian numbers are at the build-up stage of their cycle and numbers in Mexico are expected to increase, weather permitting.

Argentine numbers are building up again and with the impetus of a fairly favorable contract with the United Kingdom should recover to the levels reached prior to the drought of 1949-50. In Uruguay as is true to some extent in other livestock producing countries, competition from sheep raising is keen. Ranges in that country are completely stocked and cattle will do well to maintain present numbers in the face of the favorable outlook for wool.

In New Zealand and Australia conditions are favorable for further increase, breeding herds have been built up, new contracts with the United Kingdom for beef have recognized increased cost of production and drought conditions have ended in Australia.

As the demand for meat continues strong in Europe and as it appears that the foot-and-mouth disease has abated somewhat, some recovery in cattle numbers is expected there in 1953.

This is one of a series of regularly scheduled reports on world agricultural production approved by the Foreign Agricultural Service Committee on Foreign Crop and Livestock Statistics. It is based in part upon U. S. Foreign Service reports.